This figure outlines a timeline encompassing some of the primary stages before a surgery can begin. The time intervals in the figure show the time from the patient’s arrival before that action needs to be completed or when the action will happen. The patient arrives 90 minutes before the incision time.

If flow processes are well-established, every member of the surgical team and those involved in the peri-operative processes know what they need to do and when. Goals and timelines are established, expectations are clear, and results are tracked and trended.